

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-8 (canceled)

9. (currently added): A piezoelectric type electric acoustic converter comprising:
a plurality of piezoelectric ceramic layers which are laminated to define a laminate,
all of the plurality of piezoelectric ceramic layers being polarized in the same direction
which is a thickness direction of said laminate;

main surface electrodes disposed on front and back main surfaces of said
laminate;

an internal electrode disposed between a respective pair of said polarized
piezoelectric ceramic layers; and

a resin layer arranged to cover substantially all of the front and back surfaces of
the laminate; wherein

said main surface electrodes, said internal electrode and said polarized
piezoelectric ceramic layers are constructed and arranged to cause the piezoelectric type
electric acoustic converter to generate bending vibration in response to application of an
alternating signal between the main surface electrodes and the internal electrode.

10. (currently added): A piezoelectric type electric acoustic converter according to
Claim 9, wherein the resin layer is a stiffened coating layer.

11. (currently added): A piezoelectric type electric acoustic converter according to
Claim 10, further comprising a paste resin film disposed below the stiffened resin coating
layer.

12. (currently added): A piezoelectric type electric acoustic converter according to
Claim 9, wherein the resin layer is a resin film bonded to the laminate.

13. (currently added): A piezoelectric type electric acoustic converter according to Claim 9, wherein the laminate body has a substantially rectangular shape.

14. (currently added): A piezoelectric type electric acoustic converter according to Claim 9, wherein the main surface electrodes on the front and back surfaces are mutually conducted via a first side electrode disposed on a side of the laminate, and the internal electrode is conducted with a second side electrode disposed on a side of a position which is different from the first side electrode.

15. (currently added): A piezoelectric type electric acoustic converter according to Claim 14, wherein the first and second side electrodes are arranged to extend onto the front and back surfaces of the resin layers.

16. (currently added): A piezoelectric type electric acoustic converter according to Claim 14, wherein the second side electrode is arranged to extend onto the front and back surfaces of the laminate, and the resin layers are provided with a first notch where a portion of the main surface electrode on the front and back surfaces are exposed, and a second notch where a portion of the second side electrodes turning to the front and back surfaces of the laminate are exposed.

17. (currently added): A piezoelectric type electric acoustic converter according to Claim 9, wherein the resin layer is made of a material having a Young's modulus of about 1100 MPa.

18. (currently added): A piezoelectric type electric acoustic converter according to Claim 9, wherein the bending vibration generated in the piezoelectric type electric acoustic converter is a length bending mode.

19. (currently added): A piezoelectric type electric acoustic converter according to Claim 9, wherein the direction of an electric field in one of the plurality of piezoelectric ceramic layers is opposite to that of another of the plurality of piezoelectric ceramic layers.

20. (currently added): A piezoelectric type electric acoustic converter according to Claim 9, wherein the laminate defines a bimorph diaphragm.